7/1/56

Infestations of spruce budworm, Choristoneura fumiferana (Clem.), now threaten nearly a million acres of commercially valuable spruce-fir timber mostly on the Boise, Challis, Payette and Salmon National Forests. The destructive tree defoliators, which first became noticeable four years ago will, unless controlled, cause irreparable losses of the timber resources and to the dependent lumber industry. Control operations in 1955 suppressed the epidemic on 990,000 acres in parts of the Boise and Payette National Forests, Idaho.

Damage surveys made in 1955 after the caterpillars had completed their feeding showed that natural enemies of the insect would need immediate outside help to reduce budworm damage, and that control, to be effective, must cover at least 452,000 acres in the seriously infested areas. The volume of timber to be treated is 3.65 billion board feet having a stumpage value of $10,950,000 and a lumber value of $255,801,200.

THE INSECT

The spruce budworm is one of the most destructive insect enemies of Douglas fir, true fir, and spruce in North America. Contrary to its

FACTS ABOUT THE PROJECT

DURING THE PERIOD between late June and early August airplanes flying from three bases will apply DDT insecticide to about 452,000 acres of the infested timber. Flights will be from about 4 a.m. to 10 a.m. on days suitable for flying.

SERIOUS DAMAGE to fish, birds, wild or domestic animals has never been shown to result from application of spray at the rates and of the strength to be used on this project. Experience has shown also that spraying does not destroy the budworm parasites.

People in areas where the spray is descending through the trees may notice a slight burning sensation about the eyes but this effect lasts only a few minutes. Deposits of the insecticide on clothing can be removed by washing or dry cleaning. Cars in the spray area will receive a coating of fine spray droplets which can be removed by washing.

PUBLIC PRECAUTIONS. During the project there will be considerable extra traffic on the roads in the control areas. Please observe all posted areas and road precautions to assist your Forest Service in establishing a record for safe, efficient, economical completion of this important task in the public interest. A forest fire in the control areas could upset the schedule at considerable public expense. Your thoughtful attention to preventing all fires is requested.

COOPERATION

Cooperating with the Forest Service in this effort to preserve the vital public values involved are: the State of Idaho Department of Forestry, the State of Idaho Land Department, the "Keep Idaho Green" Committee, the Southern Idaho Forestry Association, the South Idaho Lumber Industry, the Western Pine Association, the Southern Idaho Timber Protective Association, and the United States Bureau of Land Management. Representatives from these organizations comprise the South Idaho Pest Action Council.

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For further information call:

PROJECT PERSONNEL

Director - Melvin A. Coonrod, Boise
Asst.Directors - Finley H. McNaughton, McCall
Edward L. Noble, Boise
Tech. Director - Walter Cole, Boise
Information - Lowell J. Farmer, Boise
Safety - Horace E. Hedges, Boise

COOPERATORS

Idaho State Dept. of Forestry - Roger Guernsey
Civil Aeronautics Authority - Al Witter
Agricultural Research Service - Archie Gieser
U.S. Weather Bureau - Archer Carpenter
Idaho State Dept. of Aeronautics - Chet Moulton
S.W. Idaho Pest Action Council - John Aram, Chairman

CONTRACTORS

Flying - Roberts Aircraft Co.
Insecticide - Pennsylvania Salt Chemical Co.
Transportation - Interstate Services Co.

CONTROL UNITS

Salmon, No. 1 - to be flown from the Salmon airstrip. Estimated acreage - 138,000.

Cascade, No. 2 - to be flown from the Cascade airstrip. Estimated acreage - 214,000.

McCall, No. 3 - to be flown from the McCall airport. Estimated acreage - 98,000.

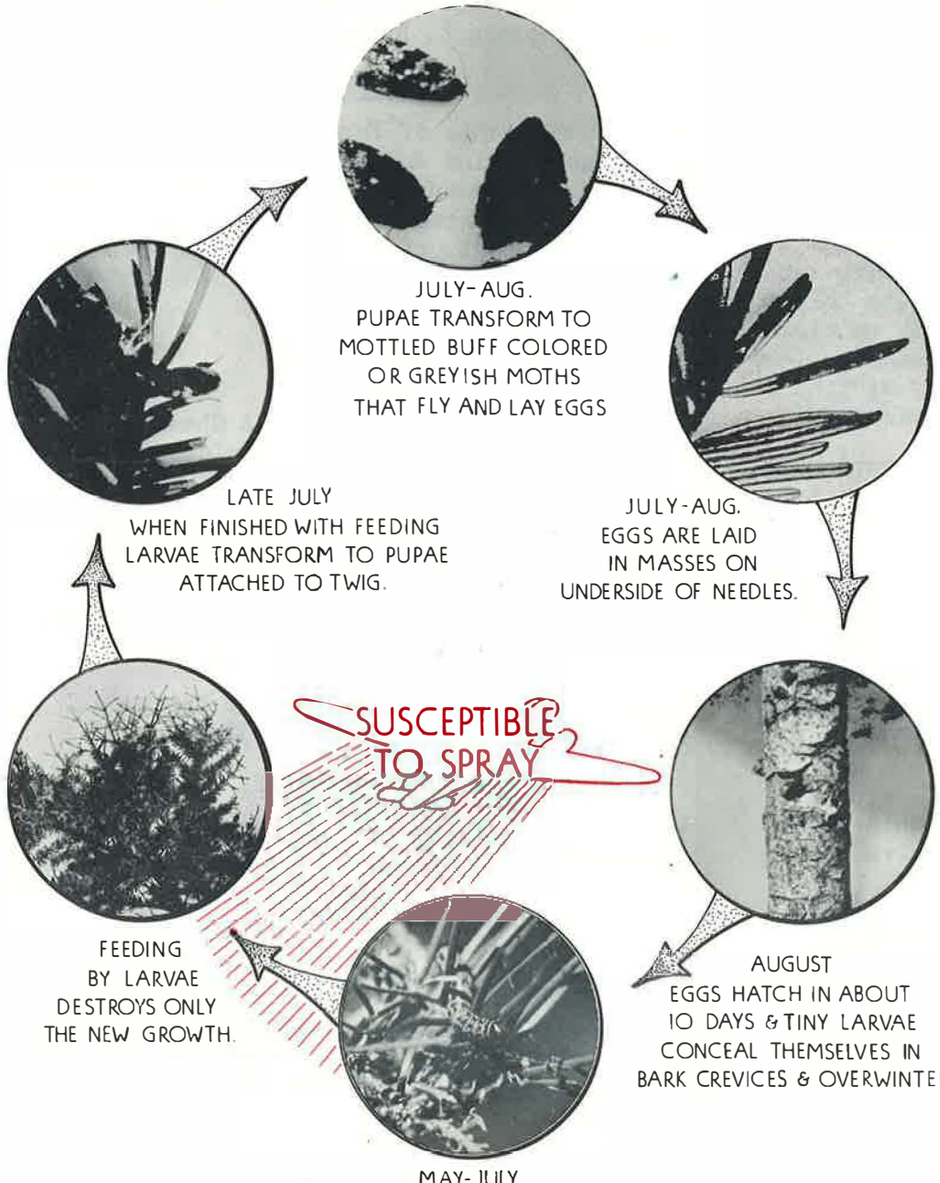
PROJECT SAFETY

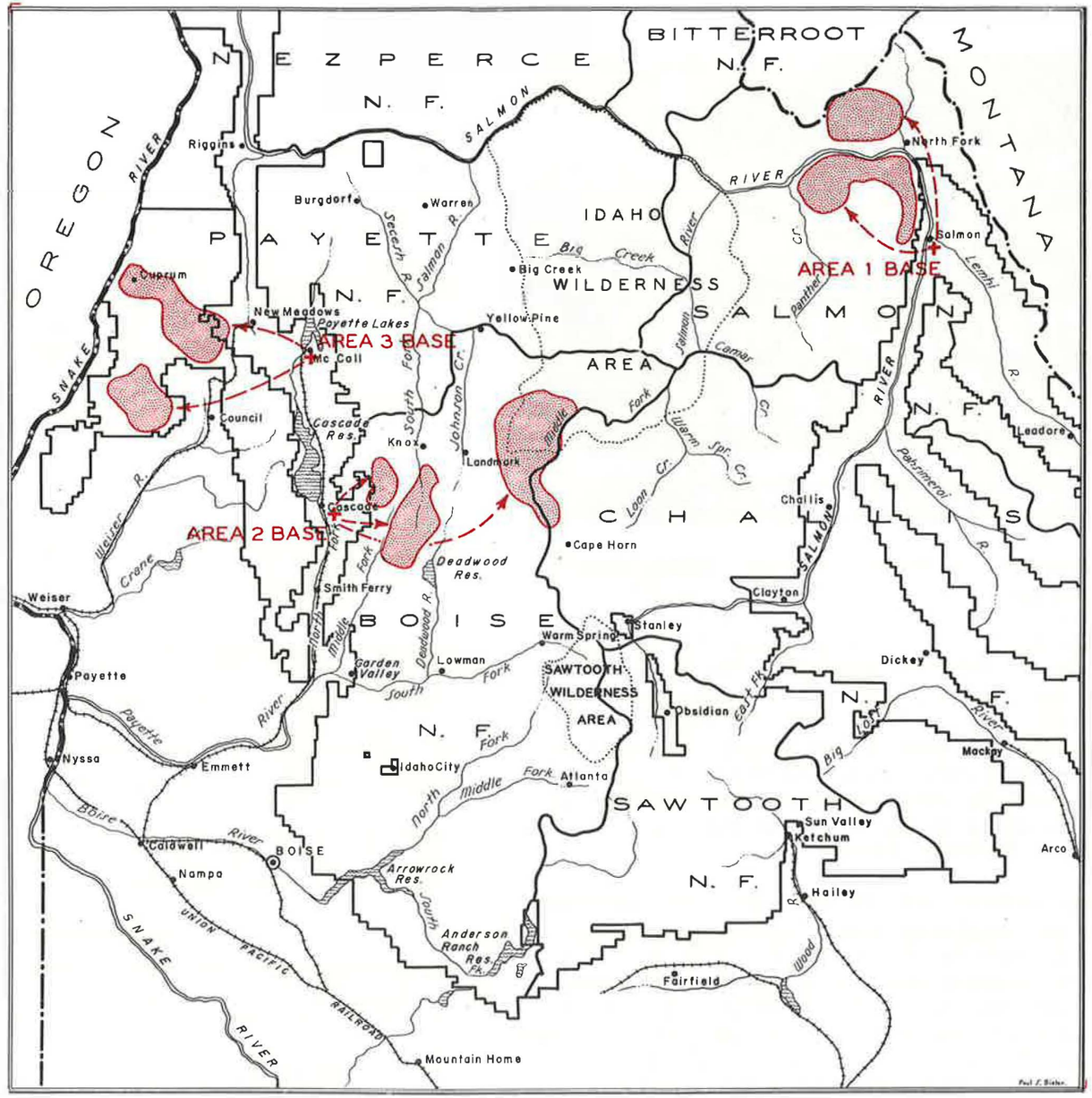
Every known safety skill and device has been incorporated into the project to make it safe and prevent costly lost-time accidents to personnel and equipment.

The Forest Service believes that only those projects which accomplish their objective safely, at a minimum cost, are done well. As in the past, our objective is to accomplish this project with no lost-time accidents, fires, or damage to equipment.

LIFE CYCLE of the SPRUCE BUDWORM

Choristoneura fumiferana (Clem.)


JULY-AUG.
PUPAE TRANSFORM TO MOTTLED BUFF COLORED OR GREYISH MOTHS THAT FLY AND LAY EGGS
LATE JULY
WHEN FINISHED WITH FEEDING LARVAE TRANSFORM TO PUPAE ATTACHED TO TWIG.
JULY-AUG.
EGGS ARE LAID IN MASSES ON UNDERSIDE OF NEEDLES.
SUSCEPTIBLE TO SPRAY
FEEDING BY LARVAE DESTROYS ONLY THE NEW GROWTH.
AUGUST
EGGS HATCH IN ABOUT 10 DAYS & TINY LARVAE CONCEAL THEMSELVES IN BARK CREVICES & OVERWINTER.
MAY-JULY



SPRUCE BUDWORM CONTROL PROJECT

SOUTHWESTERN IDAHO

BOISE, PAYETTE & SALMON NATIONAL FORESTS

1956